

## HELPFUL LINKS

Tobacco Free Kids:

[www.tobaccofreekids.org](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org)

Montgomery County Alcohol  
Beverage Services

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/abs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/abs)

Maryland State Attorney General

[www.oag.state.md.us/Tobacco](http://www.oag.state.md.us/Tobacco)

Department of Assessment and  
Taxation

[www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us)

We Card Organization

[www.wecard.org](http://www.wecard.org)

## LET US BE A RESOURCE TO YOU!

If you have any tobacco related  
issues, questions or to set up a free  
training please contact us!

## RESPONSIBLE TOBACCO RETAILING GUIDE

### Alcohol Beverage Services

Division of Licensure, Education and Regulation  
201 Edison Park Drive | Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
240-777-1999

[ABSLicensing@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:ABSLicensing@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov)



**ABS**  
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE SERVICES

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The average age of a first time smoker is 14.
- Smoking a pack of cigarettes a day costs about \$2,000 a year.
- Approximately 440,000 Americans die each year from tobacco related illnesses, 53,000 die of secondhand smoke.
- 80% of Americans who die of tobacco related disease began smoking before the age of 18.

## WHAT ARE TOBACCO PRODUCTS?

Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff or any product containing tobacco.

## **IT'S THE LAW!** **MARYLAND STATE LAW...**

Prohibits tobacco retailers from selling any tobacco product to anyone under 21 years old.

Prohibits having self-service tobacco products. All tobacco products must be placed behind the counter.

Requires a valid cigarette license visibly posted on the premises.

## DO'S & DONT'S IN TOBACCO RETAILING

### **DO'S**

- Ask for a valid ID during each tobacco transaction.
- Ask for a second form of ID if in doubt.
- Consider an ID scanner, age verifier register or use ID books and calendars at the register.
- Talk to all employees about tobacco laws, policies and consequences.
- Post anti-smoking signs under 21 years old at point of sale and on doors.

### **DON'TS**

- Try to guess a purchaser's age.
- Assume staff can read IDs. Train them!
- Place tobacco in a self-service area.
- Accept a purchaser's word that they are 21 or older.
- Allow an employee under 21 years of age to sell tobacco unattended.

## 5 VALID FORMS OF ID INCLUDE

- State issued identification card.
- Driver's license.
- Military ID.
- Resident alien card.
- US passport.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

Tobacco retailers may be inspected in 30 to 90 day intervals and are subject to the following fines:

### **First Offense**

Up to \$500

### **Second Offense**

Up to \$750.

### **Third Offense**

Up to \$750 with the option of 5 to 180 days of license suspension.

### **Fourth Offense**

Up to \$750 and possible revocation of license.

